



Homeland
Security

JUL 26 2004

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Conyers:

On behalf of Secretary Ridge, thank you for your letter inquiring about the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was entered into by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice (DOJ) in May 2003 concerning terrorist financing.

You specifically asked about a report that was to be issued jointly by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) concerning the status of the implementation of the MOA. As you note, the report was supposed to be available 4 months from the effective date of the agreement. Currently, a completed draft of the joint report is being forwarded through ICE and FBI chains of command for review. It is anticipated that the report will be ready for submission to Secretary Ridge and Attorney General Ashcroft at the end of July 2004.

ICE did complete an internal assessment of the arrangement in the fall of 2003. Even so, several factors contributed to the delay in delivery of the joint draft. For example, ICE and FBI resources involved in the effort were, and are, primarily focused on and devoted to carrying out successful implementation of the MOA. Additionally, substantial time was spent on accomplishing transitions in the management structure of the FBI's Terrorist Financing Operations Section, as well as completing extensive administrative processes concerning the FBI's assignment of personnel to ICE.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-4412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela J. Turner".

Pamela J. Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs